

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6, and 9-16 are pending in the present application. Claims 6 and 9-12 have been canceled herein thus claims 1-4 and 13-16 are now pending. The applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Wang, U.S. Patent No. 5,481,103 and Takeda et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,047,868. Claim 6 is canceled herein and thus the rejection will not be discussed.

Claims 9-10 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Wang, U.S. Patent No. 5,481,103, Takeda et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,047,868, and Moed et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,770,841. Claims 9 and 10 are canceled herein and thus the rejection will not be discussed.

Claim 11 stands rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Wang, U.S. Patent No. 5,481,103, Takeda et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,047,868, and Wang et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,659,167. Claim 11 is canceled herein and thus the rejection will not be discussed.

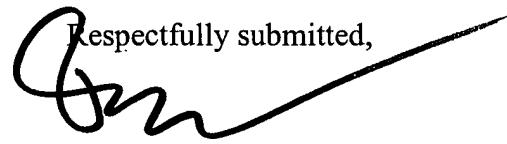
Claim 12 stands rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Wang, U.S. Patent No. 5,481,103, Takeda et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,047,868, and Barber et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,637,658. Claim 12 is canceled herein and thus the rejection will not be discussed.

The indication of allowance of claims 1-4 and 14-16 is noted with appreciation.

Claim 13 is indicated allowable if rewritten to include the limitations of the base claim and intervening claims. Claim 13 accordingly is amended herein to include features of claims 6 and 12 and is thus allowable.

In view of the forgoing, the applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for immediate allowance. A timely notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If questions relating to patentability remain, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone.

Please charge any unforeseen fees that may be due to Deposit Account No. 50-1147.



Respectfully submitted,

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